

# Media Release

**The Hon Marlene Kairouz MP**

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming  
and Liquor Regulation

Minister for Local Government



Getting Things Done.  
Making Things Fair.

Wednesday, 21 March, 2018

## PERPETRATORS FACE THE MUSIC AS PILOT PROGRAM LAUNCHED

The Andrews Labor Government is partnering with some of Victoria's best known gig spots to stop sexual harassment and assault in live music venues.

Minister for Gaming and Liquor Regulation Marlene Kairouz joined Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley at the Corner Hotel in Richmond to launch the *Sexual Harassment and Assault in Licensed Live Music Venues Pilot Program*.

The program is funded by the Labor Government and will improve the safety of live music venues by training staff and patrons how to identify and respond to sexual harassment and assault. Posters and other materials will be rolled out in venues from late April, with training currently being delivered to staff.

Joining the Corner Hotel as part of the program are eight well-known live music venues across Melbourne and regional Victoria, including:

- Howler, Brunswick
- Revolver Upstairs, Prahran
- The Toff in Town, Melbourne CBD
- The Gasometer, Collingwood
- The Croxton Bandroom, Thornbury
- The Chelsea Heights Hotel, Chelsea Heights
- The Workers Club, Geelong
- Karova Lounge, Ballarat

A taskforce made up of government agencies, Victoria Police, academics, licensed venues and the live music industry oversaw the development of the pilot program. The program will run for 12 weeks and be independently evaluated during and post completion.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Gaming and Liquor Regulation Marlene Kairouz

*"Everyone should be able to enjoy live music without fear of sexual harassment or assault."*

*"This ground-breaking program will enable staff and patrons to step in and better respond to sexual harassment when it happens, and to prevent it from happening in the first place."*

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley

*"We're working with leaders in our music industry to make our creative spaces safe for all Victorians."*

*"It's everyone's responsibility to help curb sexual harassment – staff at these venues are trained to respond quickly to these issues, so if you're at a gig and you see something, say something."*

### Quote attributable to Minister for Women Natalie Hutchins

*"All Victorians should feel safe where they live, work and play – including in our live music venues."*

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